

## GRANT POLICY.

Merthyr Valleys Homes vision is to **‘Continually provide excellent and innovative services that improves the quality of our tenants homes and the wider community’**

The vision and direction set by the Board acknowledges that Merthyr Valleys Homes has a social responsibility to invest in local communities in ways that will improve people’s quality of life. Our aim is that the grant will assist local communities in achieving their objectives by operating a policy which is open and accountable to our residents. In order to operate the policy, Merthyr Valleys Homes will identify all major risks and where necessary make sure the safeguards are in place to mitigate the risks. As the Association is a “not for profit” organisation it will set aside a sum of money each year for the purpose of awarding grants.

### Definition

Grant is defined as a request for money from a community-based group or an individual to support a specific event that achieves the following objectives:

1. Activities or projects that involve children and young people
2. Projects that help to create a sense of community spirit, cohesion, pride and respect.
3. Projects that will help to improve the appearance of the local neighbourhood.
4. Projects that help to make people feel safer and reduce the fear of crime
5. Projects that help to build the confidence and capacity of local residents to get more involved in their local communities.

It is proposed to provide a grant scheme that has two funding streams:

Small grant up to £1,000 – there will be 10 grants made available per annum.

Medium grant up to £5,000 – there will be 5 grants made available per annum

### Criteria

Merthyr Valleys Homes will consider a grant if the application complies with one or more of the criteria set out below:

- The event or provision is linked to the business objectives of the Association.
- The event or provision provides a benefit to the local community i.e. within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough
- The event or provision raises Merthyr Valleys Homes public profile
- The event or provision is linked to a joint initiative or partnership arrangement in which the Association is already involved.

- The applicant must be willing to produce a project evaluation report along with a statement of expenditure.
- The applicant can be a constituted group with governance documents and a bank account. Where there is no constituted group or the application is made by an individual, Merthyr Valleys Homes Regeneration Team can apply on the unconstituted groups' / persons' behalf and the money will be kept in the Association's account and will be disbursed upon receiving evaluation report and statement of expenditure with receipts.

### Limitations

1. Awarding a grant is at the discretion of the decision making panel which is made up of tenants. All tenants on the panel undergo training to ensure that the decision making process is transparent and conflicts of interest are taken into consideration. The panel will meet on a 6 weekly cycle, subject to applications, and all applicants will be informed in writing within a week of the decision being made.
2. Priority will always be given to an event or provision of activities and/ or an organisation which is local i.e. within Merthyr Tydfil County Borough.
3. Groups are only eligible to access one of the grant funding streams in a financial year. For example, if an application for a small grant is made, a further request for a medium grant cannot be made/awarded in the same financial year.
4. Projects that have already started will not be eligible for grant funding.
5. Merthyr Valleys Homes will not normally fund activities / projects where resources are available through mainstream funding. It will consider awarding a grant where its involvement will "unlock" larger sums of funding, but this will be the subject to Board approval.

### Publicity

Merthyr Valleys Homes may wish to publicise the award of a grant, any groups awarded with a grant will be expected to allow this. The Association will agree with them the precise nature of the publicity, including wording of press releases.

Any publicity relating to the award of a grant will be undertaken by Merthyr Valleys Homes, at its own expense. If any group wishes to publicise this separately or independently (for example, in a newsletter), the wording must be agreed with Merthyr Valleys Homes.

### Key Performance Areas

- Promotion of agreed corporate objectives as defined within the Business Plan.
- Perceptible increase in the profile of the Association as demonstrated through media coverage.
- Perceptible improvement in Association's local reputation.